Somber Stories: A Modern Struwwelpeter





Written by Ken Herrington
Illustrated by Tierney Lindblad
Inspired by Heinrich Hoffmann (1861)



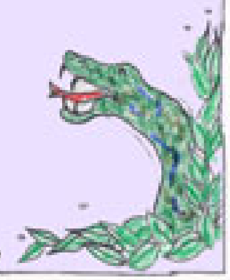


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Derek's Candy Craving

Here's a lesson I hate to show,
What poor Derek did not know.
Look both ways before you cross
Or you just might lose what Derek lost.







One early morning before school
The thought of candy made him drool.
He ditched his bus to get his fix,
To Bill's candy store, oh so quick.
It soon came to within his sight,
To cross the road starts his plight.

He took three steps onto the street
Not seeing a school bus that he would meet.
There was no chance to break the pedal
Dear Derek hit the bus' metal.

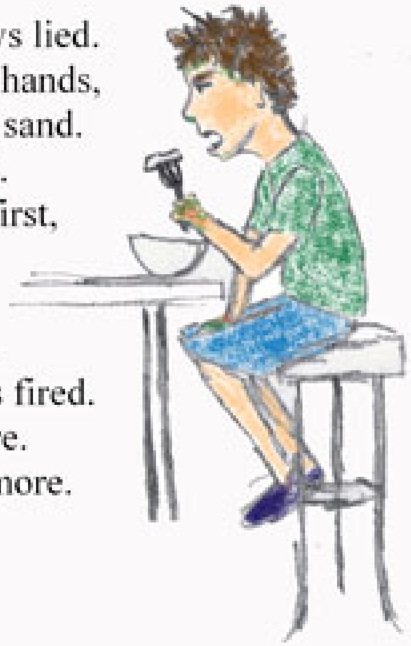




It knocked him hard, off his feet.
Yet Derek did make it across the street.
But the sad scene to which it lead
Poor Derek's corpse had no head.

The Story of Dirty Dan's Dirty Hands

Dirty Dan played outside.
When dinner came he always lied.
No time was spend to wash hands,
Especially when covered in sand.
But today became the worst.
It came to him after eating first,
Suddenly he felt real ill.
Even after a Pepto pill.
He became extremely tired.
His forehead felt as if it was fired.
Muscles seemed so very sore.
Belly aches to be taken no more.





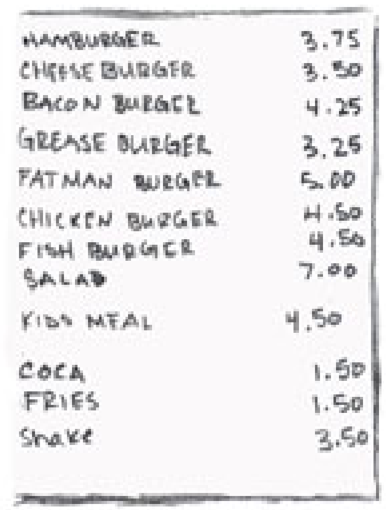
To the hospital he had to go.
But pay attention to his woes.
Because, if you didn't know
It looks like he was touched by King Midas.
Only this is him after he caught hepatitis!
Dirty Dan got jaundice, turning yellow,
Making him into one poor fellow.



Birtha's Last Happy-Meal

Here we see big Birtha's mood,
When momma says, "no more fast food!"
Big tears drip out of her eyes.
As she screams her daily lies.
"All my friends get happy-meals.
Why don't I get such a deal?"
Every day Mamma hears this tale.
But Burtha knows she will prevail.
Since it always seems to go her way,
When she says she'll run away.





Hamburgers, fries, shakes galore!
She eats and eats, then eats some more.
No fruits or salads will appeal.
Her only love is that happy-meal.
But not for the colors nor the toys,
Only the food inside gives her joy.

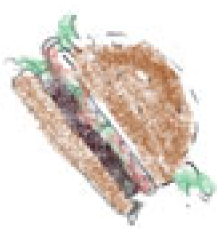


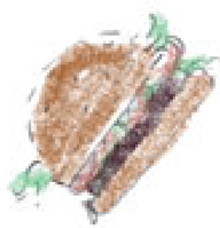


Mama says, "now, that's enough!"
But Birtha cries with her mouth still stuffed,
"If it does not go my way,
Today's the day I'll run away!"
Mama scowls but becomes wise,
Finally seeing her daughter's lies.









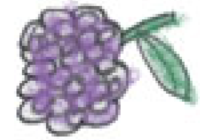


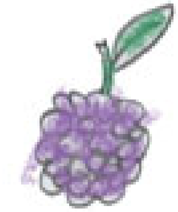
She calls her bluff, and Birtha flees
Out the door, freedom she sees.
But her speed is lost, her energy runs flat,
Because of her stomach, where the food sat.
Big Birtha's girth could only provide
A hardening pose of formaldehyde.
Now she's a stone statue in the park,
Catching the droppings of a lark.

Burning Berries

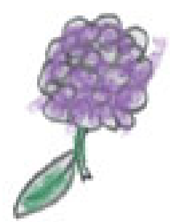
With her family, Heidi goes camping.
She is amazed with just about everything.
The birds, the trees, but especially the berries,
Are what make little Heidi merry.







Knowing that her dad would scold,
“Don’t eat those berries!” This he told.
So, she walked far from his slight,
Eating the berries that tasted right.





She found herself inside a meadow.
But now her tummy wouldn't settle.
"Some more berries should cure this," she thought.
Daddy's advice she remembered not.

She felt like her belly was burning.
Not eating those berries was now worth learning.
But it was too much too late,
After the pain began to exacerbate.
She started to think herself insane
When out her tummy she saw flames.



Doug's Little Lesson

Isn't it is a common fable?
To keep one's elbows off the table.
For Doug found out not so keen.
Using those arms for his head to lean.
But no sooner than it made a sound,
The table monster appeared a-round.

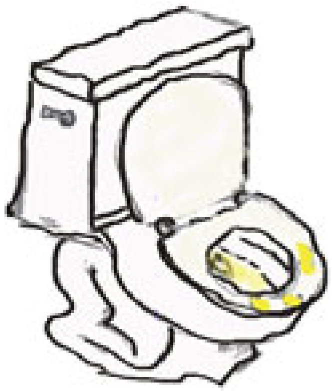


And bit Doug's elbows into two,
Making him feel very blue.
For he was told not long ago,
"Keep your elbow's down below!"





Keane's Surprise





Keane's mom gave a frown
One day before she sat down
Luckily she saw the pee
And called for him immediately.



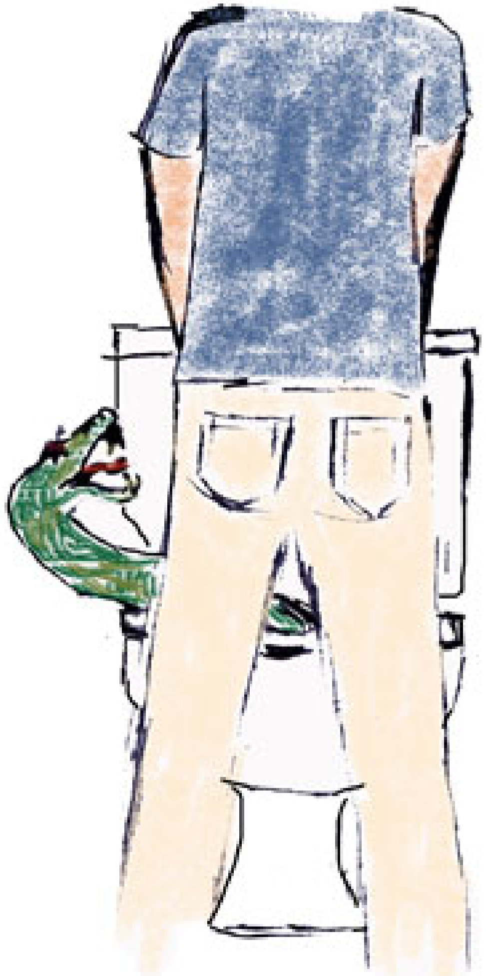
"I will tell you now, so you'll know.
Lift up the seat before you go,
Or else a sewer snake might come to fight
And will not care what he might bite."

This advice was soon forgot,
When Keane's bladder filled up a lot.
He ran out his room, through the hall,
Sliding his arm across the wall.





Running so fast he broke a vase,
To his goal: The Potty. -In urgent haste

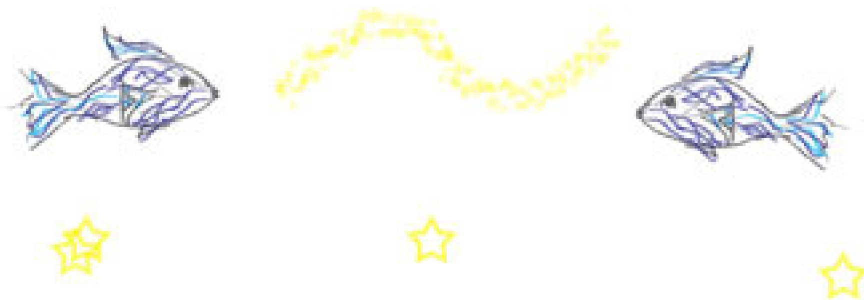


Out it pours without a thought.
Forgetful Keane remembers not.
The mean O' Snake sneaks up near.
The creature's bite he'll forever fear.

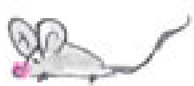
Tierney's Last Friend

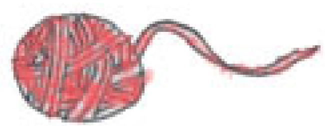
Tierney loves the squishy kitty,
Because she is so very pretty.





Kitty likes to play with toys,
And holding kitty is such a joy.
But when the grip is way too tight,
Kitty's head gets a little light.
The pressure builds inside the fur
As Tierney still holds onto her.







As the strain reaches top,
Kitty's eyeballs fly and pop.
"Boo hoo hoo!" Tierney cried,
Because her poor kitty just died!

<u>Children Stew</u>

Today Billy's aunt will be late.
He doesn't recall being told to wait.
A strange man drives on by,
Telling Billy a horrible lie.
"Your mom wants me to pick you up,
You'd better hurry to not miss Sup."





Billy fouls taking the ride today,
And soon finds out that he is prey.
The man's strange hunger to
Make little Billy into Children Stew!